

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An aberrant component detection method comprising:
storing, in a computer memory, a reference current indicative of proper
functioning of a particular component;
sensing current supplied to a group of components including the particular
component;
comparing the current supplied to the group of components to the reference
current; and
recording a result of comparing the current to the reference current.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein recording a result comprises storing the result
in a computer memory.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the computer memory is non-volatile.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein recording a result comprises displaying an
alert when there is a discrepancy between the reference current and the current supplied
to the group of components.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein recording a result includes recording the
circuit to which current was supplied during sensing.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein sensing current includes sensing while only the particular component draws current.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising allowing access to recorded results.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein allowing access comprises providing a connection to and allowing access via a computer network.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the computer network is the Internet.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein allowing access comprises providing a user interface via an on-board display.

11. The method of claim 7 wherein allowing access comprises providing a port, allowing connection of a computer to the port, and providing access with the connected computer to the stored results.

12. An aberrant component detection method comprising recording a result of comparing a sensed current to a reference current, the sensed current being supplied to a group of components including the particular component, the reference current being indicative of proper functioning of a particular component and being stored in a computer memory.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein recording a result comprises at least one of storing the result in a computer memory, displaying an alert when there is a discrepancy between the reference current and the current supplied to the group of components, and recording the circuit to which current was supplied during sensing.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the result, if stored, is stored in a non-volatile computer memory.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein the computer memory is non-volatile.

16. The method of claim 12 wherein sensing current includes sensing while only the particular component draws current.

17. The method of claim 12 further comprising allowing access to recorded results.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein allowing access comprises at least one of providing a connection to via a computer network, providing a user interface via an on-board display, and providing access via a computer connected to a direct-connect port.

19. An aberrant component detection method comprising:
storing, in a computer memory, a reference current indicative of proper
functioning of a particular component;

sensing current supplied to a group of components including the particular component while only the particular component draws current; comparing the current supplied to the group of components to the reference current; and recording a result of comparing the current to the reference current, wherein recording a result comprises at least one of storing the result in a computer memory, displaying an alert when there is a discrepancy between the reference current and the current supplied to the group of components, and recording the circuit to which current was supplied during sensing.

20. The method of claim 19 further comprising allowing access to recorded results, wherein allowing access comprises at least one of providing a connection to and allowing access via a computer network, providing a user interface via an on-board display, and providing access via a computer connected to a direct-connect port.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein the particular component is itself a group of components and the method is applied recursively to identify an aberrant particular component within the particular component.